

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-20 PRS-01 PA-04 USIA-15

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APPROVED BY AF :JJBLAKE

DOD/ISA - MR. BADER

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R 172253Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

S E C R E T STATE 104008

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, ET, US

SUBJECT: USG RESPONSE TO IEG ARMS REQUEST

REFERENCE: ADDIS ABABA 5344

1. AT REQUEST AMB. KIFLE, HE, ATO KIFLE OF MOD AND TWO
EMBOFFS CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM APRIL 14.
AMBASSADOR SAID HE WISHED MAKE CERTAIN POINTS TO EASUM
RE MILITARY AID PACKAGE RECOMMENDED BY USG WHICH HE
FELT WOULD HAVE BEEN INAPPROPRIATE TO RAISE IN LARGER
APRIL 13 MEETING WITH DOD. KIFLE NOTED THAT WEAPONS
MIX PROPOSED BY DOD OFFICIALS HAD MUCH MERIT AND WAS
PROBABLY BEST POSSIBLE MIX GIVEN FISCAL RESTRAINTS
UNDER WHICH THEY WERE WORKING. NEVERTHELESS, HE
COULD NOT ACCEPT PROPOSAL WITHOUT FURTHER CONSULTATIONS
WITH IEG, SINCE TO DO SO WOULD REQUIRE HIM TO MAKE
UNACCEPTABLE CRITICAL CHOICES AS BASIC AREAS OF DEFENSE
REMAINED UNCOVERED. IN PARTICULAR, PROPOSAL PROVIDED NO
GROUND ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS, SUCH AS VULCAN AND
VULCAN/CHAPPARAL SYSTEMS AND REDEYE MISSILES, WHICH IEG

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REGARDED AS ESSENTIAL. AND IEG COULD NOT SACRIFICE ANY-

THING ELSE IN PROPOSED MIX IN FAVOR OF SUCH MISSILES.

2. KIFLE WAS ALSO DISTURBED BY EXTREMELY LONG LEAD-TIME (2-3 YEARS IN MOST CASES) ON DELIVERY OF EQUIPMENT WHICH HE STRESSED WAS DESPERATELY NEEDED NOW TO MEET EMERGENCY SITUATION CREATED BY SOMALIS. KIFLE ASKED THAT STATE

DISCUSS WITH DOD POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY'S RELEASING TO IEG EQUIPMENT FROM ITS OWN INVENTORIES.

3. KIFLE, THEREFORE, WISHED TO URGE USG TO REVIEW ALL ELEMENTS OF ITS PREVIOUS MILITARY AID OFFER AND BE MORE FLEXIBLE IN PROVIDING FURTHER ASSISTANCE SO THAT PACKAGE WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE TRIMMED TO POINT WHERE IEG NOT ABLE TO MEET BASIC DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS. IT WAS IMPORTANT, HE ADDED, FOR USG TO EXAMINE AID TO FULFILL ETHIOPIA'S DEFENSE NEEDS IN RELATION TO SUPERIOR SOMALI CAPABILITIES RESULTING FROM SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS ALREADY HELD BY SOMALIA.

4. KIFLE EMPHASIZED QUICK U.S. RESPONSE VITAL BECAUSE OF INFORMATION RECEIVED THAT SOMALIA INCREASING TROOPS ALONG BORDER, ENGAGING IN MANEUVERS AND NOW PLANS TO ATTACK BETWEEN END OF OAU SUMMIT IN MOGADISCIO AND OCTOBER 19 ANNIVERSARY DATE OF MILITARY COUP. (SEE REFTTEL)- EASUM REPLIED THAT USG HAD NOT RECEIVED SAME INTELLIGENCE CONCERNING SOMALI ACTIVITIES AND PLANS AND SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF IEG WOULD SHARE ITS INTELLIGENCE WITH OUR PEOPLE IN ADDIS. ATO KIFLE, WHO WAS LEAVING IN DAY OR TWO FOR ADDIS, PROMISED TO ARRANGE SUCH BRIEFING.

5. EASUM THEN URGED THAT ETHIOPIA MAKE RENEWED POLITICAL EFFORT DIRECTLY WITH GSDR AND WITH OTHER AFRICAN STATES TO AVERT WAR WITH SOMALIA, INCLUDING INFORMING PRESIDENTS NIMERI AND GOWAN AND OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE OF PRESENT SOMALI PREPARATIONS AND DESIGNS WITH VIEW TO OAU INITIATIVE IN REDUCING SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN TENSIONS. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT IEG HAD REPEATEDLY ATTEMPTED TO DISCUSS PROBLEM WITH

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SOMALIS, BUT GSDR INTENT ON OBTAINING OGADEN AND NOT INTERESTED IN "BORDER DISCUSSIONS".

6. EASUM PROMISED TO REEXAMINE PROSPECT OF REMOVING SALES BAN ON REDEYES AND REVIEW ANY POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF DELIVERY LEAD-TIME ON DESIRED EQUIPMENT. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT POSSIBILITIES IN BOTH CASES WERE EXTREMELY SLIM. EASUM ALSO NOTED THAT ADDITIONAL

GRANT OR CREDIT FUNDING APPEARS BLOCKED BY
CONGRESSIONALLY-IMPOSED REGIONAL CEILING FOR AFRICA.

7. TWO IEG REPRESENTATIVES WHO CAME TO WASHINGTON FOR
DISCUSSIONS RE SPECIFICS OF MILITARY AID HAVE NOW
RETURNED TO ADDIS FOR FOLLOW-UP CONSULTATIONS WITH IEG.

AMBASSADOR KIFLE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO
RESUME TALKS HERE IN TEN DAYS' TO TWO WEEKS' TIME.
KIFLE SAID HE WOULD BE LEAVING WASHINGTON FOR ADDIS
MAY 19 TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE CONSULTATIONS, BUT
THIS NOT CERTAIN.

8. AMB. KIFLE ALSO RAISED SAME POINTS LATER ON APRIL 14
WITH DOD (OSD/ISA) NOYES AND INFORMED NO WAY REDEYES
COULD BE PROVIDED BUT THAT EVERY CONSIDERATION WOULD
BE GIVEN IEG'S SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FOR DIFFERENT MIX OF
OTHER ITEMS AS WORKED OUT WITH CHIEF MAAG AND WE WOULD
DO THE BEST WE COULD ON LEAD TIMES. RUSH

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